	United States Department of Agriculture **Forest Service**	NEWS RELEASE	**KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST** 1711 South Main Street, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841-6131 www.fs.usda.gov/klamath	
February 3, 2012		**For Immediate Release**	Contact: Tom Lavagnino Public Affairs Officer at: (530) 841-4485 tlavagnino@fs.fed.us	

February 1st Snow Survey Results for the Scott River Watershed

Yreka, CA – The February 1st snow survey results for five snow courses in the Scott River Watershed have been measured and compared to previous years. These measurements are a part of the statewide California Cooperative Snow Survey program, which is operated by the California Department of Water Resources.

The survey shows that the snow depth is at 47% of normal and the water content is at 50% of normal, as compared to the historical values for February (Table 1). Warm temperatures and low precipitation have contributed to the current snowpack condition.

The snow surveys are measured monthly during the winter and spring months (Feb.-May). District employees travel to pre-determined sites to collect information about snow accumulation in the mountains of the Klamath National Forest, west of Scott Valley. The measuring sites are established locations that quantify snow depth and moisture content. Access to these snow sites vary, some are located closer to forest roads while others require hours of travel by snow shoes and/or snowmobile.

The snow depth and water content are measured and calculated with a specially designed and calibrated aluminum tube. The depth of snow is recorded and the water equivalent of the snow core is derived by weighing snow sample. This information is used to help the State forecast the amount of water available for agriculture, power generation, recreation, and stream flow releases later in the year. Many months of winter remain, with most locations historically reaching their annual maximum by late-March and early-April. The next snow survey will occur in March.

Snow surveyors this month included: Carol Ballow, Danika Carlson, Stephanie McMorris, Susan Tebbe (volunteer), Bill Robinson, Nic Hoisington, Jerry Padilla, and Verna Yin.

For more information, go to the California Department of Water Resources Website: http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow or contact Maija Meneks, on the Salmon/Scott River Ranger District in Fort Jones, CA, (530) 468-1272.

Table 1: February 1st 2012 Snow Survey Results for the Scott River Sub-Basin on the Klamath National Forest

Snow Course	Snow Depth			Equivalent Water Content		
Name	**2/1/2012**	**February Historic Average**	**Current vs. Historic Average %**	**2/1/2012**	**February Historic Average**	**Current vs. Historic Average**
Middle Boulder #1	18.5"	51.7"	36%	8"	19.7"	41%
6600' elevation	*(Established 1946)*					
Middle Boulder #3	25.2"	50.6"	50%	9.9"	18.0"	55%
6200' elevation	*(Established 1948)*					
Dynamite Meadow	25.0"	39.6"	63%	8.4"	12.7"	66%
5700' elevation	*(Established 1955)*					
Swampy John	25.4"	59.2"	43%	10.8"	20.1"	54%
5500' elevation	*(Established 1951)*					
Scott Mountain	18.5"	42.6"	43%	5.0"	15.1"	33%
5900' elevation	*(Established 1986)*					
Total average:	**47%**			**50%**		

Figure 1. Snow survey crew at Scott Mountain. Left to right: Stephanie McMorris, Sue Tebbe, and Carol Ballow